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Plot Witnesses Told to Hide Truth, DA Says

The federal government has been accused by District Attorney Jim Garrison of encouraging witnesses to conceal the truth in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Garrison claims in a statement released to news media that his own investigation "has caught the lie machine . . . not only by a revealing photograph but by a letter taken from its own records."

THE NEW Orleans district attorney has released a copy of a letter he said was written by Warren Commission Attorney Norman Redlich to another commission attorney, Wesley J. Liebeler, on July 22, 1964, nine months after Kenneny was shot to death at Dallas.

The district attorney's statement underlined a portion concerning Deputy Sheriff Eddie Raymond Walthers. Redlich wrote Liebeler, who was to question Walthers, suggesting that he ask him "exactly what he saw on the day of the assassination with reference to the bullet which he claims splattered on the edge of the curb on Main st."

"One time Walthers was quoted as having found a bullet, but he seems to have backed away from this position," the letter said.

Garrison has photographs in which two men in business suits and a policeman in uniform are standing on the grass at the assassination site. He said one shows a man picking up a bullet.

"OF COURSE," Garrison said Thursday, "Deputy Sheriff Walthers denies that the bullet is a bullet. If he did not, he would not be deputy sheriff any longer."

Garrison said Walthers had been "reduced to the embarrassment of having to pretend that the federal official in the photograph has, in the first photograph, reached down for a piece of the President's head and, in the second photograph, is holding a piece of the President's head firmly clutched in his hand."

"What is more important is that Deputy Sheriff Walthers initially said that he did find a bullet," Garrison's statement added. "But this was before Lyndon Johnson's administration indicated the official line that it was going to be pretended that there was only one assassin . . ."

The Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin.

"Many witnesses who have cooperated in the big lie by refusing to tell what they know about the truth have been given jobs in defense plants," Garrison claimed. "Our office has located at least one participant in the assassination of President Kennedy who now works at a military base for the United States government."